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JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

BRIEFS

PRO-LIFE SENATORS KEYNOTE MEETING

WASHINGTON (BP) — Two U.S. senators urged those attending the third annual Evangelicals for Life conference Jan. 18 in Washington, D.C., to practice honest, loving persuasion in the effort to defend human dignity. James Lankford (R-Ok.), a Southern Baptist, and Ben Sasse (R-Ne.), a Presbyterian/PCA, delivered keynote speeches on the first day of the conference. The three-day meeting was hosted by the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) in Nashville and Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs, Co., and coincided with the annual March for Life rally in the nation's capital.

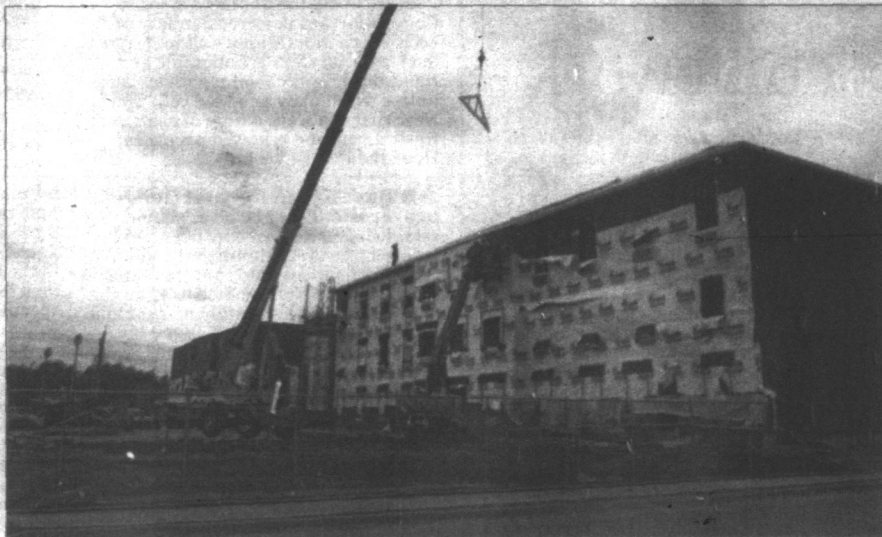
FLOYD: RACISM IS OPPOSITE GOSPEL

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP) — Ronnie Floyd, senior pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, who also serves as president of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, issued a call to racial unity Jan. 15 at the inaugural Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Exclusive on the steps of the Arkansas capitol in Little Rock. Floyd said "racism is Satan's tool" for dividing the church. "Pastors and churches must be the prophetic voice of not just doom and gloom, but the voice for hope and future," said the former two-term president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

IS TWITTER CENSORING CONSERVATIVE VIEWS?

NASHVILLE (BP) — Twitter may be trying to reshape the online narrative by editing out conservative voices, Project Veritas alleges in an undercover video released Jan. 11 that appears to show current and former Twitter engineers explaining how they "down-rank" some users and make others totally invisible if the company don't like what they are tweeting. Darrel Girardier, digital strategy director for Brentwood Church in Brentwood, Tenn., said the report shouldn't prompt concern, while Jerry A. Johnson, president/CEO of National Religious Broadcasters, called the video "deeply troubling."

COMEBACK AT WILLIAM CAREY



MOVING FORWARD — The new Ross and Johnson Hall dormitories now under construction at William Carey University in Hattiesburg will replace the original Ross and Johnson Halls that were built in '919 and lost during the Jan. 21, 2017, tornado that raked the campus. Each dorm will house 96 students. The new buildings are designated for female students, as were the original dorms, and will be completed in summer 2018. (Photo by Mia Overton/WCC)

'I wasn't sure we could recover'

FIRST IN A TWO-PART SERIES

By Mia Overton
Correspondent

One year ago this week — Jan. 21, 2017 — a powerful EF-3 tornado struck Hattiesburg and severely damaged the William Carey University

(WCU) campus to the extent that every building except one was damaged. The final result of the storm was estimated at more than \$106 million in losses.

"It looked like a war zone," said WCU President Tommy King. "When my wife and I first arrived on campus, I wasn't sure we could recover from this." He quickly changed his mind when he saw

see WCU on p. 6

CP contributions rise slightly at SBC level

NASHVILLE (BP) — Year-to-date contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) portion of the Cooperative Program are nearly one percent ahead of the same time frame at the end of 2016 but 3.7% percent under the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget projection for the year, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President and CEO Frank S. Page in Nashville.

The \$46,229,225 received by the Executive Committee from Oct. 1 through Dec. 31 for distribution through the Cooperative Program Allocation Budget represents 96.3% of the \$48,000,000.00 year-to-date budgeted amount to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America.

The total is \$447,033, or .98%, above last year's first quarter total of \$45,782,192.

The year-to-date total represents money received by the Executive Committee or postmarked by the close of the last business day of December and includes receipts from state conventions, churches, and individuals for distribution according to the 2017-18 SBC Coopera-



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

tive Program Allocation Budget.

Designated giving of \$11,620,361 for the same year-to-date period is 6.75%, or \$734,568, above gifts of \$10,885,792 received at this point last year. This amount includes only those designated gifts received by the Executive Committee and does not reflect contributions made directly to SBC entities.

Designated contributions include the Lotte Moon Christmas Offering for International

see CP on p. 4

HHS office to protect religious freedom

WASHINGTON (BP) — The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump has announced the creation of an office to safeguard health care professionals' religious liberty, drawing praise from evangelicals and derision from advocates of so-called abortion and transgender rights.

Meanwhile, Arkansas physician Steve Goss, who serves on the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, said new federal safeguards for religious freedom are not likely to change the practices of Christian health care providers or imperil the availability of medical services.

The administration announced Jan. 18 it will create a Conscience and Religious Freedom Division within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights.

An HHS press release stated the new division will "more vigorously and effectively enforce existing laws protecting the rights of conscience and religious freedom, the first freedom protected in the Bill of Rights."

The Conscience and Religious Freedom Division's website specifically notes abortion

see HHS on p. 7

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Do your homework

An important midterm election is looming later this year, and Americans in general seem to be willing to continue their appetite for political change. Who can blame us? Too many political leaders are drunk with power (or just drunk). Too many are more interested in their own re-election than they are in the People's Business. Too many are enslaved to moneyed interests and personal aggrandizement.

To be fair, there are politicians who are indeed focused solely on the good they can do for their constituents — but then again some of them are simply unfit for office.

There's a great advantage to living in a democratic republic as Americans do, and that's elections. We are not governed by dictators who seize power for life at the point of a gun, who smooth the way for their equally incompetent sons to take over when they die. When an American politician's specified term of office is nearing its end, he/she has to stand for re-election. If the people so choose, that politician is rewarded with another term of office. If it is not the will of a majority of the people voting in that particular election, he/she is turned out of office and a new person is elected.

With the task of determining the direction of the government comes great responsibility on the part of voters. Just as politicians sometimes fall short of voters' expectations, voters often fail good people who stand for election by not being informed and prepared to select the best possible candidate. Studies show that many voters make their decisions based on the most shallow of considerations, such as a candidate's physical attractiveness or impressive elocution.

That should not be the case. Voting for our political leaders is much too important to be taken as lightly as many Americans do. If we elect scoundrels because we do not do our homework as involved citizens, then we will get the government we deserve. On the other hand, if we elect the best candidates to office based on conversations with them and the study of their positions on impor-

tant issues, we will get the government we deserve in that case too. It's our choice.

How do we judge the capabilities and qualifications of a candidate for the office he/she is seeking? One of the best ways is to consider the totality of that person's record both in public and private life. A big mistake voters often make in deciding for whom to vote is that we get stuck on one issue and expect the candidate to have a perfect scorecard on that one issue.

If we are anti-abortion, that's the only issue that matters to us and we don't much care what the candidate believes about immigration reform. If we are passionate about immigration reform, we focus on that like a laser beam and overlook the candidate's position on abortion.

That's the way one-dimensional candidates get elected to office. They may appeal to you on a single issue that tickles your ears, but the totality of their record betrays that they are against you on almost every other important issue.

Don't fail to study a candidate's private life. While the amoral people among us argue that a person's private life has nothing to do with his/her public life, that's simply not true. There are many sad examples of that fact, current and past.

In just a few months, we will be voting. That's not a lot of time to critically appraise all the candidates, who will be touting their credentials to hold office and pressing voters to elect them. Now is the time to start your research. Pray for the candidates, and pray for wisdom in exercising your right to vote.

As Christians and as Baptists, there are issues important to us that each candidate should be prepared to address, such as abortion and euthanasia, same sex marriage, marijuana legalization, and health care. We need to ask tough questions and expect honest answers. We need to do our homework. We need to be ready when we walk into the voting booth.

Rest assured we're going to get the government we deserve, one way or the other.

What's your plan?

The people of God need to pray. We ought to pray. We must pray. Great movements of God are normally preceded by great movements of prayer by God's people. We see this pattern throughout Scripture and throughout the history of the church. God does not need us to pray in order to move but in His sovereignty He has chosen to work in power, time and time again, in response to the concerted cries of His people.

Since 2012, the Southern Baptist Convention has declared January of each year a month-long Call to Prayer. Such a declaration is honorable and right, but it won't be of much impact unless we actually heed the call. The New Year is always a time of changes, fresh starts, and renewed promises. How, then, must we pray?

■ **Have a plan for your personal prayer life.** Every believer should establish a month of consistent and focused prayer. Certainly, we should "pray without ceasing," but this verse in 1 Thess. 5 does not exclude us from the consistent need to be still and get alone with God.

According to Mark 1:35, Jesus rose long before daylight and found a quiet place to be alone with the Father. The pattern of our Savior was to remove Himself from the busyness of life and ministry to seek the Father.

What intentional steps are you taking to improve your prayer life? Here are a couple that have been helpful to me through the years. Journaling — writing down my thoughts and prayers — always helps me stay focused. Prayer list/cards — keep a running prayer list, with specific requests to direct your prayer time.

■ **Have a plan for your family prayer life.** Christian families ought to be praying families. Life is busy and if we are not careful, there can be seasons of weeks, months, and even years when the only time you pray with your family is at the dinner table before a meal.

How can we redeem the focus of prayer in our Christian families? Be intentional. If you do not make family devotion and prayer time a priority, it



Guest opinion
with Tommy Kiker

"God does not need us to pray in order to move but in His sovereignty He has chosen to work in power, time and time again, in response to the concerted cries of His people."

normally will not happen. Be specific. If I am not incredibly careful, my prayer times can fall into a vain repetition. Take time to listen to what is going on in the lives of your family members and then lead praying through those matters specifically.

■ **Be involved in your church's prayer life.** In many ways, we have not recognized with our time, energy, and resources how important prayer is to the believer's walk individually but also corporately. If your church has a prayer ministry, you should make every effort to be faithfully involved. If your church does not have a prayer ministry, maybe God will lay a burden on your heart to start one.

During this January's Call to Prayer throughout the Southern Baptist Convention, I pray that the Lord Jesus strengthens us to heed the call and grow as men and women of fervent prayer.

Kiker is associate professor of pastoral theology at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, holds the seminary's James T. Draper Jr. Chair of Pastoral Ministry and is chairman of the seminary's pastoral ministry department. This column first appeared at theologicalmatters.com and appears here courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style and length.

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Pro-life centers facing test before high court

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Supreme Court is preparing to consider a case that might determine the future of the pro-life pregnancy center movement in America.

Abortion rights organizations are hoping for a sweeping victory from the high court even as they maintain their attacks on what they call "fake clinics." Meanwhile, tens of thousands of volunteers continue to volunteer at pregnancy resource centers that provide a variety of services to pregnant women.

These centers that have sprung up throughout the country since high court justices legalized abortion in 1973 are crucial to the pro-life cause, movement leaders say.

The centers "embody the very best of the pro-life movement," said Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) told Baptist Press (BP) in written comments. "Every day, thousands of pro-life counselors, doctors, and advocates give real help to vulnerable women and families, many of whom have nowhere else to go."

"Treating human life with dignity matters just as much for these women as it does for their unborn children. Pregnancy care centers powerfully demonstrate this whole-life compassion that honors the image of God in all."

Empowering Women

Pro-life attorney Anne O'Connor, vice president of legal affairs for the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA) in Fredericksburg, Va., told BP the centers "are the arms of the pro-life movement, providing a safe haven where abortion-vulnerable women can work through their options without any pressure."

Through pro-life pregnancy centers, we can empower vulnerable women who have nowhere else to turn with the hope and support they need to choose life for their unborn children," O'Connor said.

Many of the pro-life centers are staffed by physicians and nurses, and provide ultrasounds that demonstrate the humanity of the unborn child. The centers' free services also can include medical consultations, baby clothing and diapers, maternity housing, job training, mentoring programs, and prenatal and parenting classes.

NIFLA, a nationwide network of more than 1,400 pro-life pregnancy centers, is at the center of the pivotal case that the U.S. Supreme Court is expected to consider during the early months of 2018. The justices have agreed to rule on the challenge by NIFLA and two pro-life pregnancy centers to a 2015 California law that requires such centers to notify their clients of the availability of abortion services elsewhere.

Unconstitutional

The Reproductive FACT Act requires licensed pregnancy centers to post a

notice for clients that says, "California has public programs that provide immediate free or low-cost access to comprehensive family planning services (including all FDA-approved methods of contraception), prenatal care, and abortion for eligible women. To determine whether you qualify, contact the county social services office at [insert the telephone number]."

The law also mandates each unlicensed center provide notice of its lack of state licensure as a medical facility and lack of a licensed medical provider who directly supervises services.

Under the law, a penalty for a first-time offense is \$500, while each subsequent violation can result in a \$1,000 fine.

NIFLA "is confident" the high court will find California's law unconstitutional because it compels speech, O'Connor said. "California's attempt to force pro-life, non-profit, and faith-based charities to promote a state-sponsored abortion agenda counts among the most flagrant violations of the First Amendment."

"The First Amendment exists to protect American citizens from being told what they can and cannot say by the government."

If the justices uphold the California law, pro-life centers across the nation could be fined out of existence for non-compliance, she told BP. "Disadvantaged women seeking a way to choose life for their unborn children would be left with nowhere to turn. A ruling of this nature would also have far-reaching implications for religious freedom and the church."

Harassment

California is not alone in requiring pregnancy resource centers to communicate certain messages. Hawaii and Illinois have enacted similar laws.

Local governments also have placed speech requirements on pro-life pregnancy centers, mandating they post signs, for instance, that say they do not provide abortions or contraceptives or make referrals for the services. Courts have invalidated all or most of such mandates in Austin, Texas; Baltimore; Montgomery County, Md.; and New York City.

NIFLA hopes the Supreme Court "will put an end to this harassment against agencies that help thousands of disadvantaged women each year," O'Connor said.

The legislative efforts by states and cities are relatively new, but attacks on the reputation and work of pregnancy resource centers are not. Leading pro-abortion organizations such as NARAL Pro-choice America and Planned Parenthood Federation of America have long vilified pro-life centers.

On its website, NARAL says, "So-called 'crisis pregnancy centers' (CPCs) are fake health-care clinics that lie to, shame, and intentionally mislead women about their reproductive-health-care options to block them from accessing abortion care."

Abortion rights groups also initiate public campaigns in an attempt to discredit pregnancy resource centers. Lady Parts Justice League and The Abortion Access Hackathon partnered with more than 30 other organizations to launch



CRISIS HANDLERS — Hundreds of pro-life crisis pregnancy centers in the U.S. like this one in Kissimmee, Fla., receive financial and volunteer help from Southern Baptist churches. Among other services, the Osceola Pregnancy Center donates baby clothes to expectant mothers. (BP photo)

#ExposeFakeClinics for a week in July and renewed the effort in October.

The campaigns push three arguments against pregnancy resource centers, said Vincent DiCaro, chief outreach officer for Care Net, a network of more than 1,100 such centers based in Leesburg, Va.: Pro-life centers only pretend to be medical; they give women deceptive information; and they deceive women into believing they provide abortions.

Pregnancy centers "don't just appear to be medical. They are medical," DiCaro said in a Nov. 1 post on the ERLC's website.

"What that means is that according to Care Net's affiliation standards, all of our centers that provide medical services do so in accord with their state laws and operate under the direction of a licensed medical director," DiCaro told BP in an e-mail. About 50%-60% of Care Net's U.S. centers that see clients are considered "medical," he said.

Nearly 1,200 of NIFLA's more than 1,400 centers have converted to medical clinics, an organization spokesperson said.

In his Nov. 1 post, DiCaro said the information Care Net centers use is referenced from "a peer-reviewed academic journal, government study, science textbook, or the like." Also, Care Net centers inform women up front they do not perform or refer for abortions.

Worshipping mammon

Money is at the root of the abortion rights movement's attacks on pro-life centers, DiCaro said. "Pregnancy centers are a threat to the bottom line of the abortion industry," he wrote Nov. 1. "The more that women and men utilize life-affirming alternatives to abortion, the fewer abortions there will be."

Care Net centers alone saved more than 600,000 unborn children in the last nine years, DiCaro said. "At \$500 per abortion, that is \$300 million in

lost revenue for the abortion business."

Raquel Williams, statewide director of New Life Pregnancy Center in Tucson, Az., a ministry of Arizona Baptist Children's Services & Family Ministries, said the #ExposeFakeClinics organizers have not targeted the centers she oversees.

However, the staff has discussed the campaign, she told BP in an email interview.

"As a ministry we want to remain faithful to God and his ministry and diligent as we serve our communities," Williams said. "Therefore, we are aware of this movement/abortion-rights effort but do not fear it."

Like many other pro-life centers, New Life finds other matters — especially economic ones on its limited budget — difficult for now, Williams said.

The primary recent challenge for New Life, which has 12 centers in Arizona and one in Mexico, "is being able to provide free ultrasounds to the families that we serve," she said. "It is a challenge maintaining the equipment, replacing equipment as well as finding sonographers to perform these ultrasounds at our centers."

"Although it's been our greatest challenge we have been able to refer our clients to partnering life-affirming organizations and pro-life doctors for these services."

Offering help

The ERLC provided the ministry with an ultrasound machine in 2011. ERLC aids Gospel-focused pregnancy centers through its Psalm 139 Project, which provides funds to purchase and place ultrasound machines in such centers.

The longtime effort by abortion rights supporters to keep women away from pregnancy resource centers has had an unexpected benefit, O'Connor told BP.

"Abortion advocates have tried to attack and shut down pregnancy centers for decades," she said. "What's interesting is that these attacks have made the pro-life movement stronger. What the abortion industry meant for evil, God will ultimately use for good."

Some of you may be like me and had never heard of "phubbing." I first heard it a few months ago as 2017 was winding down. Some people were talking about new words that had come into use. One of those words was phubbing. Though I had never heard the word before, when I found out what it was about I realized that I had seen it and might have done it a time or two.

Phubbing is when you're talking on your cell phone or looking at a text message or e-mail, causing you to ignore and not be engaged with the people around you. I have at times been talking directly to a person and in the midst of our conversation, a beep would emanate from their cell phone or it would vibrate and the person quickly picked it up, punched the appropriate buttons, and walked off talking to someone else while I was in the middle of a conversation with them. That is what phubbing is all about, so much so that it may be used by someone who is walking down the street or comes into a room where you are and doesn't want to talk to you. They simply take their phone, put it to their ear, and act as though they are talking to someone else so they won't have to put up with you. Phubbing is the technological act of ignoring people.

The practice is so prevalent that it has coined its own word. It is seen throughout our society. I need to also advise you that it is not illegal. It is doubtful that any criminal charges will be brought against you, but I can tell you that it's not good manners as well as rude, demeaning, and thoughtless. It is not helpful to developing healthy relationships. It is the intentional practice of snubbing someone or some group of people in favor of your mobile phone.

Strange, isn't it, that the cell phone we can hardly live without having in our hand has taken on a new capa-



Are you a phubber?

bility — to help you be disconnected from the folks around you and clearly and intentionally ignore folks. The practice has become so widespread and harmful that some people have tried to start a "Stop the Phubbing" campaign. The truth is that long before there was ever a cell phone, long before there was ever a telephone, long before computers and all the social media hype, there were actions that enabled people to ignore the needs of other people.

In Scripture, one of the best-known stories Jesus ever told was the memorable experience of a man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and falling among thieves who beat him and robbed him and left him for dead (Luke 10:25-37). Jesus tells what happened afterward when this man was on the side of the road, apparently taking his last breaths.

Along came a man who probably

had been to worship and was going back home. This priestly guy saw the man on the side of the road, but instead of going over and helping him he moved to the other side of the road and kept walking. I suppose you could say it was First Century phubbing, for he just kept on making tracks away

"I think Jesus would say to us, don't use your cell phone or anything else to erect barriers between yourself and other people."

from the need and toward home. The poor fella who had been taken advantage of by the thieves had now been left

alone by the religious guy.

Then a Levite came along. He at least wanted to see what was going on. He came over to the man, stood right there where he was, and saw that he was nearly dead. Instead of doing anything about it, he just turned and went on his way, too. How sad. I don't know if he prayed for him. I don't know if he went and told others, "You should have seen this old fella in pitiful shape on the side of the road." We don't know what he

did, but we know what he didn't do. He didn't help at all. Another First Century phubbing.

According to Jesus, another man then came along. He was a Samaritan, an outcast. When he got there he cleaned up the helpless man's wounds, picked him up, put him on his own beast of burden, and took him to an inn where the victim could get some rest and recuperate. Not only did he take the poor man there, he told the inn keeper to let him stay there until he got well and whatever was needed, he would pay. A phubber? Not at all. He was one of God's fine saints and servants who would not ignore, would not walk away, but would take the time, energy, investment, love, and action to take care of the victim.

Phubbing may be a new word, but I wonder how many times in your relationships have you used some device or just turned your head to phubb someone? I wonder how many times in our churches we just pass by somebody who may be visiting, a stranger in our midst. We notice them but don't take the time to find out anything about them because we have too many of our own needs and friends and things we want to do. We just go ahead and phubb them.

I think Jesus would say to us, don't use your cell phone or anything else to erect barriers between yourself and other people. Let concern and care override your uncertainties, your lack of knowing them, or even your lack of being able to meet the need in their lives. Care for them. What a great blessing it would be to a hurting person — and ourselves — if we did what God gives us opportunities to do in this regard.

Whatever your rationale, stop phubbing and start loving.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

CP

cont. from p. 1

Missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions, Southern Baptist Global Hunger Relief, and other special gifts.

December's CP allocation receipts for SBC work totaled \$16,043,690. Designated gifts received last month amounted to \$4,462,283.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' channel of giving through which a local church is able to contribute to the ministries of its state convention and to the missions and ministries of the SBC with a single contribution to its state convention.

State conventions retain a portion of church contributions to the Cooperative Program to support work in their respective states and forward a percentage to Southern Baptist national and international causes.

The percentage of distribution from the states is at the discretion of the messengers of each state convention through the adoption of the state convention's annual budget.

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KWM KC FKLADWXNVCWVV.

KVUKUA PKSW: VKIDWWC

Clue: V = S

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Psalm 47:1

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Evangelist Chris Broadhead is available for revivals, pulpit supply, or in any direction in which the Lord may lead. Bro. Broadhead is an evangelist who is committed to traditional, Holy Ghost, Bible based preaching and the conservative views of the Baptist doctrine. Bro. Broadhead is a member of Magnolia Baptist Church and is pursuing his degree in church ministries. He is married and resides in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He can be contacted by phone, text, or email at: 601.550.9565 or Chrisbroadhead5714@gmail.com

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

January 25, 2018

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

January 26 – February 8, 2018

You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13 (ESV)

Pray for: **Kevin & Brenda Peacock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through theological education & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Michael & Sarah Prewitt**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Eugenia Putnam**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through church planting.

Pray for: **Tracy Putnam**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through church planting.

Pray for: **John & Deborah Royals**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through regional office support & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Jonathan & Bethany Sharp**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting & community outreach encounter.

Pray for: **George & Geraldine Smith**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Thomas & Jenna Smith**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through regional office support & church planting.

Pray for: **Karl & Peggy Wallace**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through mission administration & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Regina White**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Charles & Shannon Worthy**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through community outreach encounter.

Pray for: **James & Mary Adair**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

SUPER  SUMMER
Surrender

JULY 16-20, 2018 | MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

Contact Discipleship & Family Ministry at tpresson@mbcb.org for more information.

**Beginning Ringers
Handbell Festival**

2.24.18

**Garaywa Camp
& Conference Center, Clinton**

Contact the Church Music Department at cwtaylor@mbcb.org for more information.



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The following is a listing of contributions made to the Lord's work which were received by the business office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017. An "a/c" denotes a gift from the association. If you have any questions about the amounts reported for your church, please contact the business office at 601-968-1800 or 1-800-248-1651. Thank you.

	Coop. Program	Other	Total
ADAMS			
CAVALRY	901.94	2,326.46	3,228.40
CLIFF TEMPLE	46,358.40	12,676.78	59,035.18
CLARK	1,085.65	1,030.18	2,115.83
FITCH RANCH	139,431.13	46,011.00	245,442.13
FRANK	26,703.41	15,628.11	42,331.52
IMMANUEL	4,497.75	10,300.00	10,944.95
MCCORMACK	24,725.89	19,464.71	44,190.60
MURRAY	4,000.00	46,200.00	50,200.00
SPRINGFIELD	7,786.50	1,660.50	9,457.00
STANTON	16,136.91	16,629.57	34,866.50
WATSON	142,533.00	1,000.00	143,533.00
ADAMS Total	342,728.85	226,467.89	569,196.74
ALCOHN			
"ASSOCIATION		3,201.00	3,201.00
ALCOHN	11,445.69	17,773.45	29,219.14
BETHLEHEM	5,504.72	8,257.11	13,761.83
BIG CREEK	2,500.00	7,704.00	10,204.00
CAVALRY	2,422.94	7,968.00	10,390.94
COUNTY LINE	650.00	18,317.13	18,967.13
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH	750.00	1,000.00	1,750.00
DANVILLE	1,200.00	1,200.00	2,400.00
EAST CORKIN	2,801.25	1,196.00	4,001.25
ELIZABETHVILLE	2,000.00	1,000.00	3,000.00
FICHT CORNHILL	204,034.42	86,196.00	326,230.42
GLASSBORO	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
HENKLE	6,109.69	3,895.00	10,004.69
HOLLY	1,075.00	4,439.52	61,900.60
JOHNSTON	1,275.44	1,282.19	2,557.63
KEMPS CHAPEL	2,617.14	3,675.55	6,292.69
LAUREL	1,000.00	8,000.00	10,000.00
LOUISIANA	6,007.17	1,262.58	11,263.25
LIBERTY HILL	1,362.60	1,495.60	2,858.20
NORTH CORNHILL	600.00	1,000.00	1,600.00
LOVE JOY	856.13	1,356.13	2,212.26
NORTH CORKIN			
ROCK	99,037.54	194,460.50	293,498.04
ROCKCREEK	509.61	917.61	1,427.22
ROCKY MOUNT	3,276.60	13,290.00	16,566.60
SHILOH	9,770.97	6,968.85	16,739.82
SOUTH CORNHILL	1,000.00	2,382.30	3,382.30
TAYLOR	5,593.45	5,593.45	11,186.90
TISHOMONGUE	9,656.43	3,059.13	12,715.56
TRUMBULL	14,744.85	16,410.00	31,154.85
UNION	5,606.58	3,312.03	8,918.59
UNITY	160.91	643.36	804.27
VALLEY	401.34	900.00	1,301.34
WEST CORNHILL	7,627.31	17,798.91	25,426.22
WYOMING CREEK	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
ALCOHN Total	591,419.83	597,462.42	1,188,882.25
ATLATA			
"ASSOCIATION		301.00	301.00
BEAR CREEK	1,812.00	2,890.00	4,702.00
BELLEVILLE	1,461.00	2,814.67	4,275.67
BOWLIN	216.04	3,175.04	3,401.08
CENTRAL RIDGE	2,366.00	4,660.00	7,026.00
COUNTY LINE	1,691.00	3,444.00	5,135.00
ELIZABETH	1,000.00	15,799.00	16,799.00
ENGLEBERG	9,799.00	7,083.00	16,882.00
EVAN	692.00	10,500.00	11,192.00
FICHT CORNHILL	14,744.85	10,294.15	25,039.00
FLORA	165,781.45	149,916.94	315,698.39
HARRISPTOWN CHURCH	1,300.00	3,655.00	4,955.00
HURSTVILLE	426.45	1,412.45	1,838.90
IRVING	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
MCCADAMS	7,650.68	11,580.25	19,230.93
MCCORMACK	10,120.00	22,801.00	32,921.00
NEW HOPE	600.00	2,300.00	2,900.00
NEW SALEM	95.00	95.00	190.00
NEW TAYLOR	1,400.00	9,000.00	10,400.00
PARKWAY	13,299.76	15,171.44	28,471.20
PEACHTREE REST	1,000.00	4,401.00	5,401.00
SALLIS	10,400.00	9,518.00	19,918.00
SAND HILL	5,324.97	10,050.99	14,365.96
SANDY CREEK	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
SPRINGDALE	3,119.70	1,522.88	4,642.58
UNITY	3,309.82	9,739.82	13,049.64
WILLIAMSVILLE	64,466.00	2,400.00	66,866.00
WYOMING CREEK	1,611.50	2,400.00	4,011.50
ATLATA Total	540,548.16	336,249.89	876,798.05
BENTON-TIPPAH			
"ASSOCIATION		2,396.00	2,396.00
BENTON	711	7,959.54	8,670.54
ASHLAND	17,305.53	21,512.00	38,817.53
BIG SPRINGS	1,005.00	2,480.50	3,489.50
CAVALRY	800.00	800.00	1,600.00
CANAWA	3,000.00	1,810.00	2,110.00
CLARK	3,000.00	3,000.00	6,000.00
COMMUNITY	605.85	605.85	1,211.70
DUMAS	1,000.00	2,458.34	3,458.34
FAUST	275.00	1,000.00	1,275.00
FICHT HICKORY FLAT	18,005.98	5,747.36	23,833.34
FICHT RIFLEY	119,061.33	52,661.51	171,744.84
FLORENCE	1,700.00	1,700.00	3,400.00
FLAT ROCK	2,400.00	1,350.00	3,750.00
HARRISON	1,200.00	1,200.00	2,400.00
HARTMAN	23,036.25	31,579.29	54,615.54
LEBANON	2,100.00	9,859.39	11,959.39
MCCORD MEMORIAL	1,000.00	2,000.00	3,000.00
MCCORD MEMORIAL DEANSTOWN	300.00	2,862.39	3,162.39
MITCHELL	780.00	600.00	1,380.00
MOUNTAIN VIEW	2,700.00	2,940.00	5,640.00
MITCHELL	10,923.00	4,293.18	15,216.18
MURRAY	1,588.50	3,128.88	4,717.38
NEW HOPE		70.00	70.00
NORTH HOPLEY	902.29	2,836.89	3,739.18
OLNEY	4,478.80	1,000.00	5,478.80
PALMER	15,664.48	5,417.25	21,081.73
PIPER	7,700.00	6,194.00	13,894.00
PIPER GROVE DUMAS	16,879.84	19,111.52	37,991.36
PIPER GROVE HICKORY FLAT	18,638.94	2,000.00	20,638.94
PLEASANT HILL TIPPERSVILLE	3,843.50	4,343.50	8,187.00
SPRINGDALE	1,000.00	600.00	1,600.00
SPRINGDALE	1,999.51	9,818.66	25,618.17
SPRINGDALE	2,700.00	2,700.00	5,400.00
UNITY	1,000.00	1,300.00	2,300.00
WALNUT	5,050.13		5,050.13
WEST HOPLEY	19,591.01	16,661.00	36,252.01
WHITTENSTON	1,971.54	4,271.33	6,242.87
BENTON-TIPPAH Total	375,928.31	281,553.39	657,481.70
CALHOUN			
"ASSOCIATION		588.00	588.00
ANTIOCH	6,247.00	5,003.00	11,250.00
BENTON	1,267.27	979.00	2,246.27
BENTLEY	2,078.90	60.00	2,138.90
BETHANY	8,750.00	34,338.94	42,588.94
BRADDOCK	2,000.00	2,000.00	4,000.00
BRADDOCK CHAPEL	8,472.09	15,243.43	23,715.52
COLLEGE HILL	6,444.90	11,667.15	18,112.05
COLUMBIA	4,662.99	2,512.61	7,175.60
DRAMA	5,418.98	7,688.98	13,107.96
DRUMS FLAT	5,962.92	14,234.98	20,197.90
DUNCAN HILL	3,700.00	1,000.00	4,900.00
ELAND	5,962.92	14,234.98	20,197.90
FICHT BRUCE	50,672.00	35,106.80	85,778.80
FICHT BRUCE	50,672.00	35,106.80	85,778.80
FICHT BRUCE	50,672.00	35,106.80	85,778.80
FICHT VARDAMAN	36,378.19	31,115.14	67,493.33
GRACE SOUTHERN BAPTIST	18,197.00	1,395.00	19,592.00
MCCORD	3,477.00	2,811.80	6,288.80
MCCORD	3,477.00	2,811.80	6,288.80
MIT COMFORT	10,341.00	11,027.07	21,368.07
MIT MCCABH	6,396.28	8,087.29	14,483.57
NEW HOPE	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
NEW HOPE	801.00	2,990.00	3,791.00
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Finding stirs argument over evolution's reliability

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (BP and local reports) — Tiny biological motors that give bacteria the ability to swim possess a complexity that baffles scientists and has led to another round of debate on Darwin's theory of evolution.

A recent study in *Scientific Reports* claims the existence of the motors shows evolution produces inevitable and creative ideas — terminology that sounds more like the work of God than of evolution/natural selection because, "Natural selection is supposed to be blind, random, and uncaring, but not here," Discovery Institute experts noted Jan. 8 on the organization's blog.

Each of the proteins involved in the bacterial motor's function is essential. The motors therefore could not have worked before all the right accidental mutations required by evolution/natural selection randomly fell into place. With no survival benefit, natural selection would not choose them.

Charles Darwin himself admitted that the discovery of

"If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down."

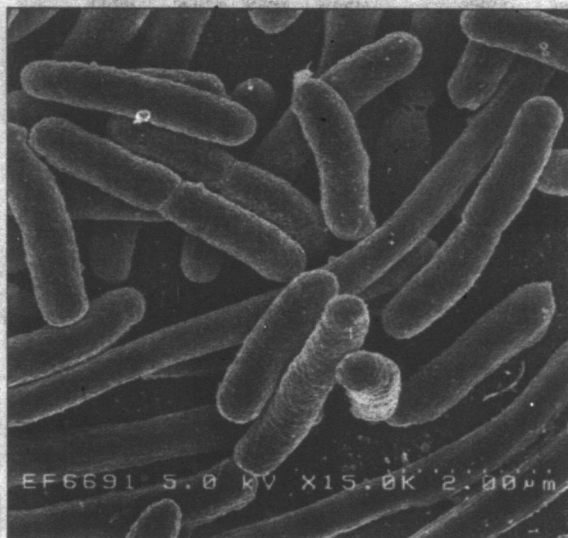
Charles Darwin

On the Origin of Species

such irreducible complexity would destroy his assumptions.

"If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down," he wrote in his seminal evolution study, *On the Origin of Species*.

Even so, the researchers have argued that a biological "quantum leap" spurred the evolution of bacterial motors. Lead researcher Mor-



gan Beeby, co-director of the department of life science's MRs in structural molecular biology at Imperial College in London, likened the quantum leap to what would happen

if the necks of giraffes suddenly increased in length because a giraffe gave birth to offspring with necks a meter longer, rather than because an extended series of random

mutations over many years favored longer-necked giraffes.

"Evolution at the molecular scale is much more radical," Beeby said. He described evolution as a creative process that "is constantly churning out new molecular ideas."

Discovery Institute experts pointed out the inconsistencies between Beeby's theory and Darwin's. "Whatever 'evolution' Beeby is talking about is surely not Darwin's variety, or that of neo-Darwinians, either. He has essentially proposed miracles by another name."

Editor's note: Image accompanying this article is a scanning electron micrograph of *Escherichia coli* bacteria and is courtesy of Rocky Mountain Laboratories, a facility of the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health. Article is courtesy of *WORLD News*. Used by permission. Edited for style and clarity.

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Pressler accuser brings SBC into sexual abuse lawsuit fray

HOUSTON (BP and local reports) — The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has been added as a co-defendant in a lawsuit alleging sexual abuse by retired Texas state judge Paul Pressler, one of the leaders of the convention movement in the late 20th century that came to be known as the Conservative Resurgence.

A Jan. 12 amendment to the suit, which was originally filed last October, claims the SBC, among other defendants, had a "duty to exercise reasonable care so as to control" Pressler, who helped engineer a strategy the goal of which was to return the Southern Baptist Convention to what Pressler and others considered its theologically conservative roots.

Pressler denies the allegations by plaintiff and convicted felon Gerald Duane Rollins, who claimed Pressler sexually abused him repeatedly between the late 1970s, when Rollins was 14, and 2004.

Rollins' petition, filed in Texas state district court, alleges he was enrolled in a young adult Bible study which Pressler led at Houston's First Church, and that he later served as Pressler's office assistant.

Pressler, 87, is a retired justice on the Court of Appeals of Texas, 14th District, and a

former member of the Texas state legislature. He also served Southern Baptists in a number of volunteer capacities.

Other defendants in the lawsuit, all of whom have denied Rollins' allegations that they facilitated and concealed the abuse, include Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth; its president Paige Patterson, one of Pressler's strongest allies in the Conservative Resurgence; Pressler's wife Nancy; Houston's First Church; Pressler's former law partner Jared Woodfill; and the Woodfill Law Firm.

The suit demands more than one million dollars in relief from the defendants collectively, claiming the alleged abuse contributed to Rollins' life of substance abuse and crime. Among the suit's allegations against the SBC:

■ The SBC made "minors sexually available to Pressler."

■ The SBC "fraudulently misrepresented and continue[s] to misrepresent material facts concerning the safety of children" at cooperating churches.

■ The SBC "had actual or constructive knowledge" of Pressler's alleged conduct and "concealed" it.

■ The SBC and others "continue to assist Pressler through obstruction of justice."



PRESSLER

In other developments, Pressler filed a Dec. 21 motion asking Harris (Texas) County district judge R.K. Sandill to dismiss Rollins' suit because the statute of limitations has expired on its claims of abuse, the last of which allegedly occurred more than a decade ago.

A hearing on that motion is scheduled Feb. 23.

Southwestern Seminary and Patterson filed a motion to separate themselves from other defendants and move the case against them to Tarrant County, where the seminary is located. A hearing on those motions was canceled Jan. 17 and has yet to be rescheduled, according to the Harris County District Court.

WCU

cont. from p. 1

the determination of the Carey students, faculty, and staff, and how the community rallied to support the university.

The storm hit before daylight on that Saturday morning. Since it was a weekend, only 350 students were on campus rather than the usual 850 that might have been there on a weeknight. There were a few injuries but no loss of life at WCC.

King credits the training of the Baptist-affiliated school's housing staff and their quick response that morning with saving students' lives. Four people were killed in the Hattiesburg community during the storm.

"We thank God that no students' lives were lost, and none of the students had life-threatening injuries," he said.

WCC Provost Scott Hummel also remembers those early hours following the storm. Sections of roof were blown off some of the dorms. The front of Ross Hall dorm was a pile of rubble where part of the building collapsed.

Windows were blown out throughout all nine dorms. "When I saw those buildings my first thought was, 'Our students are in there,'" Hummel said.

In addition to building damage, trees were uprooted and power poles were snapped in half with electrical lines strewn on the ground. Cars had been slammed into buildings. Some were upside down with glass blown out and alarms blaring. In all, 116 cars on campus that day were destroyed.

Lindsay Knight, who serves as Student Government Association president, was one of the students on campus when the storm hit.

"When the sun came up on that Saturday morning and I was able to actually see the damage done to our campus, I was heartbroken," she said. William Carey has grown tremendously over the years and to see it in rubble made me wonder if the school would ever recover."

The students remained the top priority throughout the recovery process. Housing was an immediate need. Fortunately, the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) had some vacant dorm space on their Hattiesburg campus that they offered the Carey students.

Camp Shelby located just outside Hattiesburg, the nation's largest state-owned military reserve component training site, and people in the Hattiesburg community also volunteered to take in students if needed.

Many students who lived nearby chose to remain at home. By the end of that first day after the tornado, housing had been secured for all the students who needed a place to go.

Donations of towels, bedding, toiletries, and gift cards began pouring in from the community so the students could replace the



REPLACING TATUM — Construction on the new Tatum Court (foreground) is well underway on the campus of William Carey University in Hattiesburg, along with an addition to the Joe and Virginia Tatum Theatre (background). (Photo by Mia Overton)

items they had lost. The school's Office for Advancement also established a separate fund to handle contributions for student assistance that helped replace destroyed computers, textbooks, cars, and other personal items.

"We didn't want our students to have to make the choice to leave school because they didn't

have the money to replace these necessities," Hummel said.

Another priority was resuming classes as quickly as possible. The storm hit three weeks before the end of the winter trimester and finals.

"Our goal was to allow the students to finish the trimester and get the spring trimester

started on time," Hummel said. "From the beginning, we emphasized 'campus is closed, but the university is open.'"

Following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Carey had established a system to move classes online if necessary. Two days after the tornado, most classes were in session online. Hardy Street Church in Hattiesburg opened its doors to the School of Music, which remained there until the fall trimester in August 2017.

USM had recently moved into a new nursing building on their campus across town from WCC, leaving their old building vacant. Within five days of the tornado, Carey's medical school and physical therapy programs had moved to the empty USM building and fully resumed classes.

Both programs remained at USM through the spring trimester.

Two days after the storm, more than 500 workers were on campus cleaning up debris and securing the buildings. Twenty-eight days later, the students moved

back into the dorms and most classes resumed on campus.

The spring trimester began on time on Feb. 20.

While preparing for the spring trimester, the administration was concerned enrollment would drop. Following Katrina, enrollment at WCC coast campus fell from about 1,000 to just over 600. However, Carey's students showed dedication to their school and the admissions staff ensured the new students were not deterred by the devastation.

Carey posted a one percent increase in enrollment in the spring and a two percent increase for the summer trimester. Enrollment for the fall trimester was 4,694, a 4.4% increase over fall 2016.

"We are thankful for our loyal students," King said.

Overton is WCC media relations and marketing coordinator. Edited for style and clarity. Next week: WCC community looks to the future.



Rusty Kuhn is a Mississippi Baptist Evangelist and a member of The Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists. Ministry events available through Rusty Kuhn Ministries:

Revival:

Rusty's heart is to see true revival in every church. He longs for a type of revival that trusts fully in the power of almighty God. He's desire is not to see a week of meetings but to see a type of church revival that will move the congregation from the pews into the community sparking a spiritual awakening in their communities.

Harvest Weekend:

A harvest weekend is held from Friday-Sunday where the congregation invites the lost and unchurched in the community to come hear the gospel. These services are 100% evangelistic. Though the Friday-Sunday schedule has proven to be very successful Rusty is flexible with the scheduling for these events.

Salvation Sunday:

On a Salvation Sunday Rusty will preach an evangelistic message to the congregation in the morning service. Prior to this service the congregation will make every effort to invite and bring in the lost and unchurched. In the Sunday evening service Rusty will preach on the biblical mandate for every believer to share the gospel. Rusty can also give witness training during the Sunday School and/or discipleship training hour. Other than preaching the gospel in the morning service he is very flexible and accommodating on the day's schedule.

Crusade:

Rusty's passion is to see the lost saved and would love to have a community, city, or county wide crusade in your area. Whether it's through a cluster of churches in a community or an associational event, Rusty believes that a well organized crusade can still be very effective. He also believes that there is enough talent within our own churches that they can also be very cost effective. Rusty has years of experience in organizing large and small evangelistic events and would be more than happy to help through the process of having an effective crusade along with effective follow-up and assimilation.

Rusty will go to any church of any size for a love offering, regardless of their ability to give.

For more information visit: www.rustykuhn.com
Or call: 601-799-9955

MS POSITIONS

EASTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH IN PELAHATCHIE IS CURRENTLY SEEKING A WORSHIP LEADER/MUSIC DIRECTOR. For more information or to express interest in the position, please contact Cynthia Graham at (601) 594-1979.

THOMPSON BAPTIST CHURCH, SMITHDALE, MS SEEKS A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC TO LEAD IN WORSHIP SERVICES AND ALL ASPECTS OF MUSIC. Send resume to: tbcmfina@yahoo.com or mail to Minister of Music Resume 5422 N Greensburg Rd., Smithdale, MS 39864.

GRACEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH, SOUTHAVEN, MS IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH. Please send resumes to Barry Baker at email: n2preaching@yahoo.com or to Barry Baker at 8551 Getwell Road, Southaven, MS 38672.

MAIN STREET BAPTIST IN GOODMAN AND PICKENS BAPTIST IN PICKENS ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR A PASTOR TO SERVE BOTH CHURCHES. Services are Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in Pickens and at 11 a.m. in Goodman plus a Wednesday Bible Study at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays in Goodman. If interested in this position, please email your resume to the pastor search committee at sdifley73@gmail.com.

DREW BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Please email resume to drewbaptistchurch@gmail.com or U.S. Mail to Drew Baptist Church, 139 S. Church St., Drew, MS 38737.

LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH FLOWOOD, MS IS LOOKING FOR A FULL-TIME CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTER. Please email your resume to office@lbcflowood.org.

CLASSIFIEDS

BALBOA BAPTIST CHURCH, HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE, AR, IS RECEIVING RESUMES FOR CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR/ASSOCIATE PASTOR. Candidates must have a College degree; a Southern Baptist related Seminary degree; excellent computer skills such as maintaining a website, Facebook, email, powerpoint, etc. Co. to www.BalboaBaptistChurch/WhoWeAre/employment

FULL-TIME PRESCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S PASTOR: The First Baptist Church of Mauldin, S.C. is seeking a full-time Preschool and Children's Pastor. Send resumes to First Baptist Mauldin, 150 South Main Street, Mauldin, SC 29662 or email wleonard@fbcmauldin.org. For more information, visit www.fbcmauldin.org to view the job profile and job description.

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Incomplete Picture • Acts 18:24-28; 19:1-7

I was privileged to have grown up in a home where going to church was important. I vividly remember being in our pew every time the doors of our church were opened. At that time, we had two-week revivals (morning and evening), two-week long VBS's, week long January Bible studies, and various other events spread throughout the year. That puts a great deal of church-mileage on a person! While I am grateful for this heritage and wouldn't change it for a moment, there can be a danger, as well. One is that church simply becomes a routine or ritual, and two, that it becomes more about the church and its activities and not about Jesus, Himself. These years later, I discovered there is a difference between going to church to know who God is and actually knowing God.

In our lesson, we meet a man named Apollos. He is described as a Jew, an eloquent, passionate speaker, and one who was teaching "accurately" about Jesus in the synagogue. I love that phrase, *teaching accurately*, for it defines so many today. Nothing Apollos was saying was amiss but still there was something missing; he did not have everything he needed. Paul's fellow disciples, Priscilla and Aquila, after listening to him, pulled him aside to share the rest of what he

needed to know. In our passage we are not told exactly what Priscilla and Aquila told him but his teachings and boldness changed drastically afterward. The next chapter might give us a clue as to what they said.

In Acts 19:2 Paul asked a group of disciples, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They responded that they

had never even heard there was a Holy Spirit so their answer was, "no." This is an extremely important aspect in our study of the book of Acts. In Acts 2, The Holy Spirit made His entrance to the world and from that point on, we see power, boldness and growth throughout the church. However, I have discovered mentioning the Holy Spirit causes many to feel uncomfortable because the He has been misrepresented by those who want to sensationalize Him. Some TV personalities tend to portray the Holy Spirit in ways that are contrary to His purpose

and because of that many conservative Christians have shied away from speaking about Him.

But what did Jesus say about the Holy Spirit?

"I assure you: The one who believes in Me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. John 14:12 (CSB)

And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. He is the Spirit of truth. John 14:16 (CSB)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 (CSB)

In just these three verses we see the purpose of the Holy Spirit in our lives: the ability to accomplish what Jesus commands, having a counselor or helper, and power! Why would we not want Him?

Paul understood the heart of these disci-

ples in chapter 19. They wanted to live right and follow God but Paul knew they could not do these things on their own. Perhaps it was the Holy Spirit that Priscilla and Aquila shared with Apollos because he began to "vigorously refute the Jews in public." He had gained something more than just knowledge about this Jesus, he had Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, living in Him.

Noticing the absence of Holy Spirit teachings in many congregations, Francis Chan wrote a book entitled, *The Forgotten God*, to combat the false ideas garnered by extremists. He encourages his readers to call upon the Holy Spirit for an awakening. He says, "I think we can agree that there is a problem in our churches, that something is wrong. But I don't think we can reach an agreement on what to do about it. Most people do not connect what is missing or wrong with a particular need for the Holy Spirit."

Don't be afraid. The Holy Spirit is a gift from our Lord to give us power. Let Him have control in your life and in your church. He will empower you to speak even more accurately about Christ and the world will hear the truth.

Grace is a Bible teacher and conference speaker and is a member of First Church, Clinton.



Explore the Bible

with Cyndi Grace

I Am a Child of the King • Galatians 4:1-7

Rev., Pastor, Brother Bobby, Parson. All of these titles and more I have answered to. Even the youth came up with a name: "Bro Bo." None of these bother me. It comes with the territory. More important to me are the roles of husband and father. If I am not daily striving to work on those two, the others will matter little. However, above them all is the title of child of God. This assurance of belonging to Him is the only one that is eternal and the only one that is a testimony of the salvation given to me by the Heavenly Father.

The late homiletics professor, lecturer and author Fred Craddock, shared a story that is the best I have ever heard when it comes to illustrating what it means to be a child of God. Let me encourage you to share it with your class this Sunday. The story goes:

Fred Craddock, while lecturing at Yale University, told of going back one summer to Gatlinburg, Tennessee, to take a short vacation with his wife. One night they found a quiet little restaurant where they looked forward to a private meal — just the two of them.

While they were waiting for their meal they noticed a distinguished looking, white-haired man moving from table to table,

visiting guests. Craddock whispered to his wife, "I hope he doesn't come over here." He didn't want the man to intrude on their privacy. But the man did come by his table.

"Where you folks from?" he asked amicably.

"Oklahoma."

"Splendid state, I hear, although I've never been there. What do you do for a living?"

"I teach homiletics at the graduate seminary of Phillips University."

"Oh, so you teach preachers, do you. Well, I've got a story I want to tell you." And with that he pulled up a chair and sat down at the table with Craddock and his wife.

Dr. Craddock said he groaned inwardly: Oh no, here comes another preacher story. It seems everyone has one.

The man stuck out his hand. "I'm Ben Hooper. I was born not far from here across the mountains. My mother wasn't mar-

ried when I was born so I had a hard time. When I started to school my classmates had a name for me, and it wasn't a very nice name. I used to go off by myself at recess and during lunchtime because the taunts of my playmates cut so deeply.

What was worse was going downtown on Saturday afternoon and feeling every eye burning a hole through you. They were all wondering just who my real father was.

"When I was about 12 years old a new preacher came to our church. I would always go in late and slip out early. But one day the preacher said the benediction so fast I got caught and

had to walk out with the crowd. I could feel every eye in church on me. Just about the time I got to the door I felt a big hand on my shoulder. I looked up and the preacher was looking right at me.

"Who are you, son? Whose boy are you?" I felt the old weight come on me. It was like a big black cloud. Even the

preacher was putting me down.

But as he looked down at me, studying my face, he began to smile a big smile of recognition. "Wait a minute," he said, "I know who you are. I see the family resemblance. You are a son of God."

With that he slapped me across the rump and said, "Boy you've got a great inheritance. Go and claim it."

The old man looked across the table at Fred Craddock and said, "That was the most important single sentence ever said to me." With that he smiled, shook the hands of Craddock and his wife, and moved on to another table to greet old friends.

Suddenly, Fred Craddock remembered. On two occasions the people of Tennessee had elected an illegitimate son to be their governor. One of them was Ben Hooper...a man with a great inheritance.

And so it is with you!

My friends, in the context of eternity, it will not make a difference what others say about you or me. The only thing that will count is your relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Are you a child of the King? You have been adopted into royalty. Go and invite others!

McKay is pastor of Harperville Church, Harperville.

Bible Studies for Life

with Bobby McKay



HHS

cont. from p. 1

and assisted suicide are procedures for which health care professionals may need conscience protection. Media reports speculated some doctors and nurses also may request protection against being forced to assist with gender transitions.

Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, called HHS's action a welcome and positive move.

"Health care professionals do not put their consciences in a blind trust when they pursue medical training," Moore said in a press release. "...I am thankful that HHS recognizes how imperiled conscience rights have been in recent

years in this arena and is actively working and leading to turn the tide in the other direction.

"Health care professionals should be freed up to care for the bodies and minds of their patients, not tied up by having their own consciences bound."

The Washington Post noted a 2009 incident in which a nurse at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York was forced to as-

sist in an abortion or face disciplinary action.

David Stevens, a physician and president of the Christian Medical & Dental Association in Washington, D.C., said members of the organization he leads have been discriminated against and some have even lost positions for speaking out on matters of conscience.

"We are delighted that HHS has formed the Conscience and

Religious Freedom Division," Stevens said in a news release. "It is long overdue. There are already laws on the books. It will help address the injustices that laws were designed to prevent."

Sarah Warbelow with the Human Rights Campaign told The Post the Conscience and Religious Freedom Division seeks to "devalue the humanity of LGBTQ people."

Just for the Record



Donnie Coker, interim pastor at **SILVER CREEK CHURCH, MCCOMB**, was ordained to the ministry Nov. 4, 2017. Shown are David Millican, Debbie Coker, Coker, E.J. Didon, Steve Clark, and Woody Rimes.



SARDIS CHURCH, WESSON, ordained Cecil Templeton and Tyler Brister as deacons Oct. 8, 2017. Shown are Jennifer Templeton, Templeton, pastor Billy Barnes, Brister, and Vanda Brister.



CALHOUN CHURCH, COLLINS, welcomed Don and Patsy Hilbun, missionaries to Honduras, for Lottie Moon Sunday. Shown are the Hilbuns, George Hensarling, and pastor and Mrs. Daryl Coats.



NEW VISION COMMUNITY CHURCH, SUMMIT, presented Happy Birthday Jesus Dec. 17, under the direction of Sissy Wallace and Kay Davis. Floyd Davis, pastor.

In other Church News:

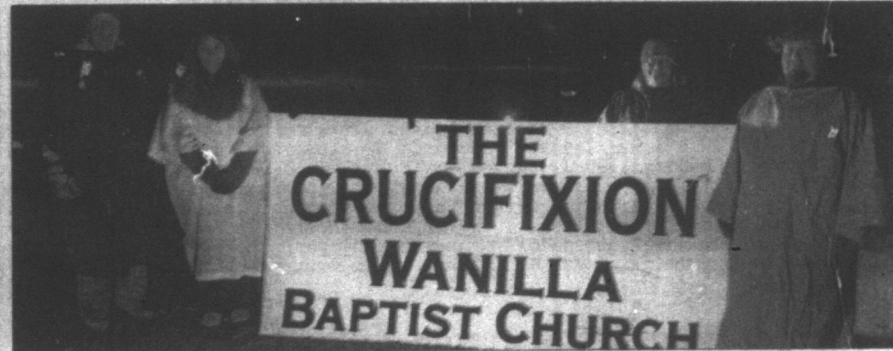
► **Antioch Church, Winston County**, will host One Way Quartet Jan. 27, 5 p.m. Love offering.

► **Cartersville Church, Petal**, is hosting an area-wide women's event, Fresh Grounded Faith, Jan. 26 - 27, with Jennifer Rothschild, Laura Story, and Michael O'Brien. Tickets are \$49 for groups of 10+, \$54 for individuals, and \$64 at the door (if available.) Tickets online at www.FreshGroundedFaith.com or by phone at (800)859-7992.

► **Washington Church, Natchez**, is hosting Sunday Drive in concert Jan. 28, 6 p.m. Love offering.



Judi Sullivan, **CALVARY CHURCH, VICKSBURG**, leads the church's children in presenting the Lottie Moon Post Office with all the proceeds going toward the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, with the children passing out the Christmas cards.



WANILLA CHURCH, MONTICELLO, presented a crucifixion scene during their Life of Christ drive-through display. Shown are Tim Lea, Sarah Reynolds, Ryan Wilson, and pastor Jeff Vosbrink.

CLARKSDALE CHURCH, CLARKSDALE, ordained Mike Pittman and Frank Shepherd as deacons Jan. 7. Shown are Rob Taylor, Shirley Pittman, Pittman, Bobby Douglas, Shepherd, and Erin Shepherd.



Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.